

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:07 p.m. January 7, 2010 in the Community Development Meeting Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair H. Schibanoff introduced and welcomed two new Committee Members, C. Gagnon and R. Empey .C. Gagnon will chair the Volunteer sub committee and D. Empey will Chair the Trails/Landscaping, Clean-up, Grounds and Land Conservation sub committee.

2. Attendance:

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh, J. Barnes, Martha Lee, Clerk P. Nichols, C. Gagnon, R. Empey, J. Barnes (late) K. Dickinson, (late)

3. Consent Agenda

December 3, 2009 Benson Park Committee Minutes

Selectman S. Jasper voted to accept minutes

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

4. Public Input

None

5. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

➤ **Buildings**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper requested the names of all volunteers that signed up to be part of the Buildings Sub-Committee. C. Gagnon will compile this list and send to Selectman Liaison S. Jasper. The Board of Selectmen approved work to be done on the Haselton Barn Roof and the Train Station but no work has been started due to weather.

➤ **Trails/Land Conservation**

D. Empey announced that a meeting was held on December 15th and discussed what they wanted to propose for Trail signs, Trail locations and Trail names. D. Empey handed out a Trail map in different colors to highlight the areas. He explained these trails in depth. Some areas are wet and some are in the wetlands mitigation area. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper was a little concerned about the wetlands area and felt that before anything was done in this area D.O.T. should be consulted. D. Empey agreed but felt that this area should be made available because of the nature that abounds here. D. Empey displayed a Trail sign. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper mentioned that two Eagle Scout candidates are looking for a project and this could be something they could do. D. Empey handed out names for Trail names. If everyone would look at this and send emails on their choice of names or new names to D. Empey he would bring this to his next sub-committee meeting. Questions were asked and a discussion followed.

➤ **Grounds/Landscaping/Clean-up**

D. Empey had nothing to report at this time. Plans were made to have another clean-up but the weather interfered with this and nothing has been done.

➤ **Outreach**

No report from Outreach at this time. P. Nichols said that more sub committees should be formed to get into spring mode. The need for landscaping, paving, friends of Bensons are some of the areas that help will be more than welcome. The committees are stretched thin at this time. Chair H. Schibanoff said that this should be an agenda item for the all committees and volunteers meeting to be held on Jan. 25., 2010.

➤ **Volunteers**

C. Gagnon is working on a data base with all volunteers that would be available to all Committee Members. A problem with incorrect email addresses is occurring. C. Gagnon will try to call as many as she can to update this listing. She will also send emails out to all volunteers to invite them to the meeting on the 25th.

➤ **Dog Park**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, Town Administrator, S. Malazia, Chairman R. Coutu met with members of D.O.T. and members of the Governors council in late December. This discussion was about the Senior Center and Selectman Jasper brought up the Dog Park and other issues that needed clarification. They said they would start to work on this but things work slowly in Concord. Questions and discussion followed.

➤ **Fence Removal**

Chair H. Schibanoff asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper if the fence issue had been approved for removal by the Board of Selectmen. This fence is the one that is around the Elephant Barn and protects nothing. Selectman Liaison will bring this up at the next BOS meeting.

6. New Business

➤ **Proposed Rules and Regulations**

J. Barnes explained how he came up with some of these Rules and Regulations. He tried to make everything easy to understand and would be compatible with the Towns idea of the park. Discussion on some of the rules followed with many questions (i.e. skate boarding, skaters, horse back riding, etc.) Selectman Liaison S. Jasper mentioned the Tate paving has a reconstituted asphalt driveway. Selectman Jasper stated that this would be fine for the park roads and it seems to hold up very well. This could be a consideration when looking to have the roads paved. Other discussions followed about group functions, etc. This will be put on hold until Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh looks into this further.

➤ **Ticket Booth Repairs**

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh checked this out and she contacted the Fire Department but heard nothing back. Her vision of this booth is to keep it in the historic area and try to find an Eagle Scout who would take this on as a project for his badge.

➤ **Winter Activities**

Discussed opening the park for a day this winter. Many thought it would be wise to look at a date in late February. This will be tabled until the next meeting

7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

Ken Dickinson asked for the status of the Railroad Station Grant. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will answer this when he speaks next.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper stated that he was having a difficult time talking to anyone at Town Hall about Bensons. He thought it would be wise for the Committee to ask for a Town Liaison to help solve some of our problems by being the go-between for Benson Park Committee and the Town.

P. Nichols made a motion to ask the BOS to assign a Staff Liaison to help the Committee complete the job that was assigned to them.

J. Barnes seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

P. Nichols wished everyone a very happy New Year and a warm welcome to the newest Committee Members. She also thanked the BOS for letting her serve on the Committee for another little while.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if the Committee would be open to accepting another Committee member or an Alternate. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper was in favor of an Alternate to help with the work load.

C. Gagnon made a motion to ask the Board of Selectmen to consider an alternate to the Benson Park Committee.

M. Lee seconded the motion.

All in favor-Motion Carries

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked D. Empey about a Deer Stand that he found when he was working in the Park. D. Empey told the Committee about this stand that he thinks someone spent considerable money for this. There were no foot prints around it but it was chained to a tree. D. Empey asked for guidance in what to do about this. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that it would be wise to consult the Hudson Police Department and see what they would recommend. D. Empey was asked to contact the HPD about this.

C. Gagnon said she was glad for the opportunity to serve on the Committee and is looking forward to the work ahead.

J. Barnes wished everyone a Happy New Year and it will be an exciting year getting this park open.

Chair H. Schibanoff thanked everyone for their input on our first Annual Report. He learned quite a bit more about Benson Park regarding the historical buildings. He also wanted to know what the policy was in canceling a meeting due to Snow. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it could be canceled by the Chair of the Committee and possible posted on HCTV

Adjournment

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to adjourn

J. Barnes seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries